

CLAIMS

1. A method of configuring a printer, the method comprising:
creating a printer menu structure; and
5 installing the printer menu structure on the printer, wherein the printer menu structure is installed on an erasable storage device in the printer.

2. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein installing the printer menu structure replaces any menu structure previously installed on the printer.

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3. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein installing the printer menu structure extends any menu structure previously installed on the printer.

4. A method as recited in claim 1 further comprising simulating operation
15 of the printer menu structure prior to installing the printer menu structure on the printer.

5. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein creating a printer menu structure includes creating a hierarchy of menu elements.

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6. A method as recited in claim 5 wherein each menu element has an associated menu element type and an associated action.

7. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein creating a printer menu
25 structure includes associating an icon with at least one menu element in the printer menu structure.

8. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein the method is performed by an end-user of the printer.

9. A method as recited in claim 1 wherein creating a printer menu structure includes determining the arrangement of a plurality of menu elements on a printer display panel.

10. A computer-readable memory containing a computer program that is executable by a processor to perform the method recited in claim 1.

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11. A printer comprising:

a display panel to display a plurality of menu elements;

a user interface coupled to the display panel to allow a user to select among the plurality of menu elements; and

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a data communication interface coupled to the display panel to allow the printer to receive a printer menu structure from a remote device.

12. An apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein the data communication interface is a network interface.

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13. An apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein the printer is a laser printer.

14. An apparatus as recited in claim 11 wherein the user interface is a touch-sensitive screen positioned proximate the display panel.

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15. An apparatus as recited in claim 11 further comprising a memory device coupled to the data communication interface to store a printer menu structure received from the remote device.

5 16. One or more computer-readable media having stored thereon a computer program comprising the following steps:

creating a printer menu structure; and

installing the printer menu structure on a printer, wherein the printer menu structure is installed on an erasable storage device in the printer.

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17. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 16 wherein installing the printer menu structure replaces any menu structure previously installed on the printer.

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18. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 16 further comprising simulating operation of the printer menu structure prior to installing the printer menu structure on the printer.

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19. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 16 wherein creating a printer menu structure includes creating a hierarchy of menu elements.

20. One or more computer-readable media as recited in claim 16 wherein creating a printer menu structure includes creating a hierarchy of menu elements, and each menu element has an associated menu element type and an associated action.